

FATHER MARK SCHULTE
HOMILY
MARCH 29, 2026

PALM SUNDAY (A)

My Brothers and Sisters, Today is Palm Sunday, or Passion Sunday. It marks the beginning of Holy Week. Lent will continue through Thursday until Holy Thursday evening Mass. This is followed by Good Friday, Holy Saturday, and Easter Sunday, referred to as the Sacred Triduum (CCC 1168).

But today we heard how Jesus is welcomed into Jerusalem with shouts of joy (Mt 26:14-27). The people are aware that Jesus raised Lazarus from the dead and they are full of expectation. As they lay their cloaks on the ground before Him and raise palm branches in jubilation, they are ready to make Jesus their King. The Apostles see this and are themselves caught up in the joy of the people.

Jesus entered into the city triumphantly with the people shouting, “Hosanna to the Son of David.” But in only a short while later they will be crying out to Pilate, “Crucify Him, Crucify Him”! Now they want Jesus as their King, but later they will say, “We have no King but Caesar.” If we are honest with ourselves, we are much like those people. We want Jesus when things are going well, but the cross is far from our thoughts.

In only a short while Jesus will carry His cross into this same city to be crucified and only a few decades later that entire city will be destroyed by the Romans along with the temple, that city that rejected Jesus. Such will be the case ultimately with all that reject Him.

The triumphal entry into the City of Jerusalem is a symbolic entry into the hearts and minds of believers. We welcome Jesus as King in our lives. We are not merely observers standing on the sidelines waving branches.

On our road of life how many times has Jesus encountered us and we have rejected Him? Or those numerous times that we have been prompted by the Holy Spirit and did not act? How often have we said in so many words like Peter, “I do not know this man?”

As we enter into the holiest of weeks let us recommit ourselves to growing in holiness in these few remaining days of Lent. Let us commit ourselves to carrying our own crosses in union with Jesus. And as people come into our homes, let them see our blessed palms prominently displayed which tell everyone that Jesus is our King. Let us do this with the assistance of the Blessed Virgin Mary the Queen of heaven and earth. Amen.

NOTE: CCC = Catechism of the Catholic Church